

Appl. No. 10/784,334
Amdt. dated March 23, 2005

REMARKS

Examination and consideration of this application as amended is kindly requested. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted prior to a first office action in this case. By this Preliminary Amendment, the Applicants have cancelled all originally filed claims, i.e., claims 1-21, without prejudice, and have added new claims 22-48. After this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 22-48 remain pending in this application.

Amendments to the Specification

The Applicants have amended paragraph 0001 of the specification to include references to related applications that were filed concurrently with the present application. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Claims

The Applicants have canceled original claims 1-21 without prejudice.

The Applicants have added new claims 22-48 to properly define the claimed invention. Independent claims 22, 33 and 44 have been added to set forth a method, computer system and computer program product, respectively, according to one aspect of the present invention. Support for these claims is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 000175, 000176 and 000177. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claims 23, 29, 34 and 40 have been added claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000177. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

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Dependent claims 24 and 35 have been added to claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 000170. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claims 25 and 36 have been added to claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000175. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claims 26 and 37 have been added to claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000176. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claims 27 and 38 have been added claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000176. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claims 28, 39 and 45 have been added to claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000177. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claims 30 and 41 have been added claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 00049. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claims 31 and 42 have been added claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000179. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

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Dependent claims 23 and 43 have been added to claim an aspect of the invention set forth by those dependent claims. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 00043-00044, 00074-00078 and 000175. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Independent claim 46 has been added to set forth a method according to another aspect of the present invention. Support for this claim is found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 000175, and 000177. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claim 47 has been added claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by that dependent claim. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000180. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Dependent claim 48 has been added claim an aspect of the invention as set forth by that dependent claim. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 000180. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Conclusion

In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-21, without prejudice, and have added claims 22-48. Applicants believe this amendment serves a useful clarification purpose, and is desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendment does not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

Applicants acknowledge the continuing duty of candor and good faith to disclosure of information known to be material to the examination of this application. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, all such information is dutifully made of record. The foreseeable equivalents of any territory that may be surrendered by this amendment are limited to the territory taught by the information of record. No other territory afforded by the doctrine

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of equivalents is knowingly surrendered and everything else is unforeseeable at the time of this amendment by the Applicants and their attorneys.

It is submitted that Claims 22-48 are in condition for allowance. Consideration and examination of the claims as amended is kindly requested.

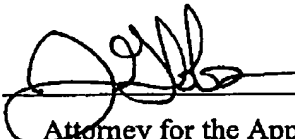
If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities that can be corrected by Examiner's amendment, or that in any way it would help expedite the prosecution of the patent application, a telephone call to the undersigned at (561) 989-9811 is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1556.

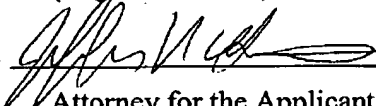
In view of the preceding discussion, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and re-examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/23/05

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